

House File 619 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 619

BY GRASSLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the notification of law enforcement
2 regarding the discharge of a voluntary patient who is
3 mentally ill or has symptoms of mental illness from a
4 hospital.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 229.3, Code 2019, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **229.3 Discharge of voluntary patients.**

4 1. Any voluntary patient who has recovered, or whose
5 hospitalization the chief medical officer of the hospital
6 determines is no longer advisable, shall be discharged. Any
7 voluntary patient may be discharged if to do so would in the
8 judgment of the chief medical officer contribute to the most
9 effective use of the hospital in the care and treatment of that
10 patient and of other persons with mental illness.

11 2. If the chief medical officer of the hospital is informed
12 that an arrest warrant has been issued for or charges are
13 pending against a voluntary patient of the hospital, the chief
14 medical officer may notify the appropriate law enforcement
15 agency about the discharge of the patient prior to the
16 patient's discharge.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This bill relates to notification of law enforcement about
21 the discharge of a voluntary patient who is mentally ill
22 or has symptoms of mental illness. Under current law, any
23 voluntarily admitted patient for mental health treatment who
24 has recovered, or whose hospitalization the chief medical
25 officer of the hospital determines is no longer advisable,
26 shall be discharged. The bill provides that if the chief
27 medical officer of the hospital is informed that an arrest
28 warrant has been issued for or charges are pending against a
29 voluntary patient of the hospital, the chief medical officer
30 may notify the appropriate law enforcement agency about the
31 discharge of the patient prior to the patient's discharge.